



The City of Boston strives to reach milestones across programs, policies, and practices that will deliver positive results for our residents. As a community, it is up to us to work collaboratively across government, academia, the private and public sectors, clergy, families and neighborhoods to close opportunity gaps and strengthen outcomes for all Bostonians, especially Black and Latino boys and men, to achieve their full potential.

Martin J. Walsh, Mayor of Boston

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SUMMER 2015: REACHING THOUSANDS OF BOSTON YOUTH

MAYOR'S MENTORING MOVEMENT

Recruiting 1,000 new mentors for Boston youth

- Building on themes to support MBK Boston, Mayor Walsh launched the Mayor's Mentoring Movement in February 2015 with the goal of recruiting 1,000 new caring adult mentors for Boston boys and girls. As of August 2015, the Mayor's Mentoring Movement has received 1,918 new mentor applications with 321 mentors matched.
- Beginning in August 2015, the Mayor's Mentoring Movement launched a marketing campaign to further engage individuals to serve as mentors.

MAYOR'S SUMMER JOBS PROGRAM

Supporting over 10,000 youth summer jobs

- As part of the Mayor's Summer Jobs Program, Mayor Walsh is joined by a robust collective network in Boston, including government, non-profit and community-based organizations, and the private sector to provide youth with access to meaningful employment. As a result, 10,360 youth jobs were created in the summer of 2015.

BOSTON SUMMER LEARNING

Providing over 6,500 Boston school children with summer learning

- As part of the Boston Summer Learning Project, over 6,500 Boston school children enrolled in 78 summer learning programs in diverse, non-traditional settings around the city during the summer of 2015.
- The Boston Summer Learning Project is a coordinated public-private effort that was boosted in summer 2015 by nearly \$2 million in private funding.
- Mayor Walsh has also challenged for additional innovative programs to join the Boston Learning Community, setting a goal of enrolling 10,000 school children in 100 summer learning programs over the next two years.

NEW SUPERINTENDENT LEADERSHIP

Welcoming Dr. Tommy Chang

- The Boston community welcomed Dr. Tommy Chang, Boston's new Superintendent of the Boston Public Schools, in the summer of 2015. Within days of serving as the Superintendent, Dr. Tommy Chang released a 100-Day Plan to the Boston School Committee on July 15, 2015. Visit www.bostonpublicschools.org for more details on the 100-Day Plan and the Boston Public Schools.
- In the spring of 2015, Boston hosted a very transparent and community engaged process to select and appoint Dr. Tommy Chang as the new Superintendent of the Boston Public Schools.

VIOLENCE INTERRUPTERS PROGRAM

Promoting safety and productive activities among Boston youth

- The Violence Interrupters Program was launched in 2015 in collaboration with the Boston Centers for Youth and Families, Boston Police Department, and the Mayor's Public Safety Initiative thanks to \$3 million in funding over three years by the Boston Foundation.
- Year to date, the Violence Interrupters Program has engaged:
 - Engaged with over 400 service referrals;
 - Managed over 500 mediations, year to date, including both individual and active gangs willing to mediate or resolve issues that had serious potential for increased violence; and
 - Managed over 830 interventions, year to date, including both individual and group interventions to avoid or deescalate potential incidents of violence.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION: HIGHLIGHTS & PROGRESS



GRADUATING FROM HIGH SCHOOL READY FOR COLLEGE AND CAREER

- **Launched High School Redesign in May 2015**

- As part of High School Redesign, the Boston community, including youth, were engaged to re-imagine the design of the City's education model. The City of Boston is preparing the Design Phase of High School Redesign (September - November 2015).

- **Collaborating with Boston After School and Beyond**

- In partnership with Boston After School and Beyond, the Mayor's Office of Education and the Boston Public Schools (BPS) is exploring common measures and performance metrics for after-school and summer programs that partner with the City and BPS.

- **Recruiting Diverse Faculty**

- BPS' Human Capital strategy is working towards increasing diversity and cultural proficiency of Administration and Staff.

SUCCESSFULLY ENTERING THE WORKFORCE

- The Boston Opportunity Youth Collaborative launched the Connection Center (inside the Ruggles MBTA station) to serve as a one-stop resource to help Boston high school graduates, 20 to 24 year olds, who are unemployed and out of school without a postsecondary degree.

- **Identifying New Funding and Resources to Support Youth Employment**

- Mayor Walsh with the support of the City Council increased local funding to support youth jobs through the Department of Youth Engagement and Employment's *SuccessLink* program. The Mayor also advocated for increased state funding for Fiscal Year 2016 in support youth employment.
- Mayor Walsh collaborated with the Boston Private Industry Council to recruit 40 new companies to hire Boston youth, adding to a network of approximately 300 companies that hire.
- The MBK Boston Health & Human Services Sub-Committee is brainstorming long-term fundraising strategies to support youth employment.

- **Training More Youth Employment Supervisors**

- The Department of Youth Engagement and Employment scaled up trauma-informed practices and training to reach more supervisors in the summer of 2015, with a long-term goal of reaching all supervisors by summer of 2016.

MY BROTHER'S KEEPER: BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

• Enhancing Relationships to Teach Entrepreneurial Skills and Business Development Strategies for Youth of Color

- In June 2015, Mayor Walsh in partnership with BUILD announced the opening of business incubator space at The Jeremiah E. Burke High School.
- In September 2015, the City created an interagency collaboration with United Way of Massachusetts Bay and Merrimack Valley to reach 300 youth and enhance programming for Boston Youth Venture, an initiative that received funding by the Citi Foundation's Youth Opportunity Fund.

• Increasing resources and policy support for the development of award-winning vocational and technical training within BPS

- Vocational and technical training support is a component of BPS' high school redesign strategy.

• Developing partnerships with chamber leaders and the business community to encourage mentorship

- Efforts to engage the Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce, Association of Latino Professionals for America (ALPFA), and Wayfair are among new business recruitment strategies since the launch of the Mayor's Mentoring Movement.



REDUCING YOUTH VIOLENCE AND PROVIDING A SECOND CHANCE

- John Hancock, Youth Connect, and the Mayor's Office of Public Safety Initiatives launched EPIC, a year round program for 50 middle school aged youth from six BPS schools. EPIC focuses on personal development, skill building, and leadership cultivation for this age group that has been identified as a pinnacle age in decision making.

• Enhancing Parental Engagement Support for Adolescent Children

- In May 2015, the Boston Public Health Commission hosted the first in a series of outreach efforts for *Strengthening Families*, formerly known as *Parenting Wisely*, a parental engagement initiative proven effective in supporting children ages 10 to 14 years old and their parents in high-risk neighborhoods. A strategic plan will be developed to enhance *Strengthening Families* as part of the STRYVE/VIP Neighborhood Advisory Council's focus on family support.

• Increasing Coordination and Communication Across Partners to Improve the Delivery of Trauma Response Within the Community

- In spring of 2015, the Mayor's Office of Public Safety Initiatives launched Safe City Co-Op, a quality assurance system to streamline coordination and communication across partnering agencies and programs in Boston.
- Clinical Trauma Recovery Teams were activated in March 2015 in eight community health centers serving Roxbury, Dorchester, and Mattapan. The teams have trained over 1,400 front-line staff who have responded to over 680 referrals and completed over 2,500 visits with victims and families impacted by violence and trauma.

• Scaling Up Effective Re-entry Employment Programs

- In June 2015, the City of Boston graduated its second class for Operation Exit, including 15 former high-risk individuals now trained and employed within the building trades.
- The Mayor's Office of Public Safety Initiatives is exploring partnerships to expand Operation Exit in additional industries.

• Collaborating Across Public Safety, Housing, and Human Service Agencies to Evaluate and Improve Housing Policies to Support Stability in the Lives of Returning Citizens and Reduce the Rates of Recidivism

- Potential reform of housing policies are being explored across multiple city agencies and partnerships to address barriers individuals may encounter who are court-involved or CORI-carrying.

• Creating and Launching a Marketing Campaign to Highlight Positive Imagery of Young Men of Color

- The City of Boston is partnering with Hill Holliday, a leading marketing and communications firm, on projects to increase awareness for MBK Boston. Efforts will include branding and design as well as a public campaign focused on job and career development opportunities for Black and Latino boys and young men.